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Employment Situation, April 1986

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Economic Analysis and Research

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BATH-BRUNSWICK LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment increases in shipbuilding, contract construction, and retail trade all helped to boost resident employment in the Bath-Brunswick Labor Market Area from 24,130 in March to 24,580 in April. Unemployment in the area dropped from 1,130 to 1,010, with the resulting unemployment rate falling from 4.5 percent to 3.9 percent. This was the third successive monthly decline in the local unemployment rate and the lowest April rate ever recorded in the area. Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped to 7.0 percent in April from 7.5 percent in March, while Maine's rate fell to 6.3 percent from 6.6 percent.

BIDDEFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

Employment increased and the number unemployed declined, as economic conditions improved in the Biddeford Labor Market Area in April. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.3 percent in March to 5.3 percent in April. This was the result of resident employment increasing 1,440 to 24,210 and the number unemployed falling 170 to 1,360. The current unemployment rate of 5.3 percent was below both the statewide rate of 6.3 percent and the national rate of 7.0 percent. A year ago, the local unemployment rate was slightly higher at 5.5 percent. Between March and April of this year, seasonal gains in nonmanufacturing employment were evidenced in contract construction, wholesale and retail trade, and services. Manufacturing employment grew slightly due to gains in the metals and machinery industry group.

LEWISTON-AUBURN METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Labor market conditions in the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) improved for the third consecutive month in April. Resident employment increased from 37,300 in March to 37,600 in April. Total joblessness in the area fell from 3,300 to 2,900. As a result, the local unemployment rate dropped from 8.1 percent to 7.2 percent, the lowest rate recorded in the MSA since 1984 when the rate was 6.9 percent. Meanwhile, both national and state unemployment rates declined in April. Nationally, the unemployment rate fell from 7.5 percent in March to 7.0 percent in April, while the State's jobless rate dropped from 6.6 percent to 6.3 percent. Between March and April, local nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 200 jobs. Employment gains of 100 jobs each in food processing; other durable goods manufacturing; contract construction; and finance, insurance, and real estate more than offset employment losses of 100 jobs each in rubber and miscellaneous plastics products manufacturing and local government.

PORTLAND METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Following normal seasonal trends, economic conditions in the Portland Metropolitan Statistical Area evidenced improvement from March to April. Resident employment increased from 106,900 in March to 109,500 in April, while the number unemployed fell from 3,800 to 3,500. The resulting April unemployment rate was 3.1 percent, down from 3.4 percent in March. A year ago at this time there were 3,500 unemployed and the unemployment rate stood at 3.2 percent. The performance of the local economy continues to remain stronger than that of either the State or Nation. The State's unemployment rate in April was 6.3 percent, while the national rate was 7.0 percent. The latest improvements in the local economy can be attributed to employment gains in a broad range of industries. In nonmanufacturing, seasonal growth occurred in retail trade, construction, hotels and other lodging places, and entertainment and recreational services. In manufacturing, electrical and electronic equipment continued its comeback from lower levels of employment experienced during the last half of 1985.

RUMFORD LABOR MARKET AREA

The unemployment rate in the Rumford Labor Market Area fell from 8.9 percent in March to 8.8 percent in April. This was the lowest local April unemployment rate since 1981. Meanwhile, the State's unemployment rate declined from 6.6 percent to 6.3 percent, while the national unemployment rate fell from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent. Local resident employment rose from 7,510 in March to 7,730 in April, with employment gains in paper manufacturing and contract construction. However, total joblessness also increased from 730 to 750, as a result of small seasonal layoffs in lumber and wood products and shoes. Last year at this time, 940 local residents were out of work and the unemployment rate stood at 11.2 percent.

WATERVILLE LABOR MARKET AREA

During April the number unemployed in the Waterville Labor Market Area dropped to its lowest level in 1986. At the same time, resident employment rose slightly from 20,350 to 20,390. The resultant unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent from 6.1 percent in March. For the fourth consecutive month the local unemployment rate remained below the unemployment rates of both the State and Nation of 6.3 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. In addition, a year ago the local unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, or 0.2 percentage points above the current rate. At that time, the number unemployed was 1,280. This April small employment losses in food and kindred products and lumber and wood products were offset by gains in paper and allied products. Most gains in the nonmanufacturing sector occurred in trade.



CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE LABOR MARKET AREA, NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES ^{1/}

AREAS	LABOR FORCE ^{2/}			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85
MAINE-Statewide	555.2	543.4	537.7	520.2	507.7	504.4	35.0	35.7	33.3	6.3	6.6	6.2
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	40,200	39,900	40,200	37,700	37,400	38,000	2,500	2,500	2,200	6.2	6.3	5.5
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	40,500	40,600	39,300	37,600	37,300	36,400	2,900	3,300	2,900	7.2	8.1	7.4
Portland MSA	113,000	110,700	109,200	109,500	106,900	105,700	3,500	3,800	3,500	3.1	3.4	3.2
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA ^{3/}	124,860	120,570	116,750	121,210	116,620	112,060	3,650	3,950	4,690	2.9	3.3	4.0
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	30,610	30,350	30,780	28,950	28,440	29,150	1,660	1,910	1,630	5.4	6.3	5.3
Bath-Brunswick	25,590	25,260	24,760	24,580	24,130	23,800	1,010	1,130	960	3.9	4.5	3.9
Belfast	10,690	10,310	10,700	9,410	9,080	9,460	1,280	1,230	1,240	12.0	11.9	11.6
Biddeford	25,570	24,300	25,290	24,210	22,770	23,900	1,360	1,530	1,390	5.3	6.3	5.5
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	11,060	10,790	11,050	10,490	10,090	10,540	570	700	510	5.2	6.5	4.6
Calais-Eastport	13,290	12,690	12,580	11,570	11,140	11,090	1,720	1,550	1,490	12.9	12.2	11.8
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,780	21,490	20,860	19,690	19,430	19,090	2,090	2,060	1,770	9.6	9.6	8.5
Central Penobscot	2,710	2,770	2,460	2,450	2,530	2,190	260	240	270	9.6	8.7	11.0
Dover-Foxcroft	6,580	6,120	6,520	6,110	5,700	6,050	470	420	470	7.1	6.9	7.2
Ellsworth	21,750	20,470	20,230	19,880	18,510	18,680	1,870	1,960	1,550	8.6	9.6	7.7
Farmington	11,830	12,070	11,680	10,720	11,080	10,420	1,110	990	1,260	9.4	8.2	10.8
Fort Kent-Allagash	4,970	4,820	4,960	4,080	4,190	4,140	890	630	820	17.9	13.1	16.5
Greenville	1,060	1,060	1,020	850	930	810	210	130	210	19.8	12.3	20.6
Houlton	5,920	5,770	5,640	5,320	5,300	5,130	600	470	510	10.1	8.1	9.0
Kittery-York ^{3/}	28,070	27,200	26,270	27,670	26,640	25,840	400	560	430	1.4	2.1	1.6
Lincoln-Howland	5,490	5,380	5,170	4,900	4,960	4,680	590	420	490	10.7	7.8	9.5
Livemore Falls	4,610	4,410	4,300	4,250	4,040	3,880	360	370	420	7.8	8.4	9.8
Madawaska-Van Buren	3,920	3,810	3,760	3,470	3,350	3,380	450	460	380	11.5	12.1	10.1
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,580	4,480	4,440	4,190	4,140	4,190	390	340	250	8.5	7.6	5.6
Norway-Paris	11,520	11,070	10,770	10,600	10,090	10,050	920	980	720	8.0	8.9	6.7
Patten-Island Falls	2,540	2,460	2,140	2,240	2,290	1,890	300	170	250	11.8	6.9	11.7
Rockland	16,710	16,840	16,810	15,460	15,690	15,750	1,250	1,150	1,060	7.5	6.8	6.3
Rumford	8,480	8,240	8,360	7,730	7,510	7,420	750	730	940	8.8	8.9	11.2
Sanford	15,590	15,360	15,100	14,670	14,250	14,110	920	1,110	990	5.9	7.2	6.6
Sebago Lakes Region	12,060	11,300	10,070	11,590	10,780	9,600	470	520	470	3.9	4.6	4.7
Skowhegan	22,480	21,460	21,060	20,360	19,450	19,000	2,120	2,010	2,060	9.4	9.4	9.8
Southwest Penobscot	10,490	10,200	10,190	9,560	9,210	9,320	930	990	870	8.9	9.7	8.5
Waterville	21,610	21,680	22,020	20,390	20,350	20,740	1,220	1,330	1,280	5.6	6.1	5.8
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,705.8	1,698.3	n/a	1,638.1	1,615.5	n/a	67.7	82.8	n/a	4.0	4.9
Massachusetts	3,036.0	3,049.0	3,038.5	2,919.0	2,918.0	2,925.9	116.0	131.0	112.6	3.8	4.3	3.7
New Hampshire	559.6	548.1	523.5	540.8	527.5	500.7	18.8	20.7	22.8	3.4	3.8	4.4
Rhode Island	500.9	500.4	500.3	481.4	476.8	473.3	19.5	23.6	27.0	3.9	4.7	5.4
Vermont	283.5	285.3	273.6	269.4	270.6	258.7	14.1	14.7	14.9	5.0	5.2	5.4
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	6,632.1	6,571.9	n/a	6,338.7	6,278.5	n/a	293.4	293.4	n/a	4.4	4.5
UNITED STATES ^{4/}	116,317	116,309	114,325	108,201	107,643	106,175	8,115	8,667	8,150	7.0	7.5	7.1

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area
Note: n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.
Footnotes
^{1/} Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.
^{2/} Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.
^{3/} Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.
^{4/} National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.
THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Labor Market Information Services



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

APRIL 1986

STATISTICAL
DATA
SERIES: ES-04-86

SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEWIDE MONTHLY NEWS RELEASE

A BRIEF ANALYSIS COVERING SELECTED MAINE LABOR MARKET AREAS

AUGUSTA LABOR MARKET AREA

Gains in manufacturing boosted resident employment in the Augusta Labor Market Area during April. Resident employment rose 510 to 28,950, while the number unemployed dropped to 1,660, the lowest number of unemployed since the beginning of the year. The resultant unemployment rate of 5.4 percent was below the 6.3 percent recorded in March. It was just 0.1 percentage point above the 5.3 percent of a year ago. For the second consecutive month, the local unemployment rate remained below the rates reported for the State (6.3 percent) and Nation (7.0 percent). Most notable employment gains in the local area were registered in leather and leather products, with smaller employment gains in textile mill products and paper and allied products. In the nonmanufacturing sector, employment in construction grew, as interest rates remained relatively low encouraging building activity.

BANGOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA

Economic conditions in the Bangor Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) improved slightly in April. Resident employment climbed from 37,400 in March to 37,700 in April, while unemployment remained unchanged at 2,500. As a result, the local unemployment rate declined from 6.3 percent in March to 6.2 percent in April. A year ago the local unemployment rate stood at 5.5 percent and 2,200 persons were unemployed. Corresponding state and national unemployment rates for this April were 6.3 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. Employment in manufacturing was unchanged, as employment gains in paper and allied products, printing and publishing, and petroleum and coal products were offset by losses in leather and leather products. Employment gains in the nonmanufacturing sector occurred in wholesale and retail trade and domestic services. These employment gains were partially balanced by losses in contract construction, as a result of layoffs by a major local contractor who had completed a contract for construction of approach roads and ramps to the new third bridge spanning the Penobscot River. Analysis of the industry of separation of the unemployed in the Bangor MSA indicates that three industries contributed most to unemployment during the first quarter of 1986. Approximately 25 percent of the unemployed had previously been employed in contract construction. People separated from leather and leather products (non-rubber footwear) accounted for 22 percent, while retail trade accounted for 13 percent of the unemployed. Unemployment in construction and retail trade was largely seasonal in nature, while plant closures and periodic layoffs continued to plague the leather and leather products industry.

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CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE BY MAINE COUNTY

STATISTICAL DATA SERIES: CCLF 4/86

COUNTY 1/	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE 2/			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE			RESIDENT EMPLOYED		
	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85	Apr. 86	Mar. 86	Apr. 85
ANDROSCOGGIN	47,020	46,850	45,510	3,320	3,720	3,370	7.1	7.9	7.4	43,700	43,130	42,140
AROOSTOOK	38,310	37,570	36,690	4,210	3,730	3,660	11.0	9.9	10.0	34,100	33,840	33,030
CUMBERLAND	121,670	119,110	116,770	3,880	4,310	3,820	3.2	3.6	3.3	117,790	114,800	112,950
FRANKLIN	11,830	12,070	11,680	1,110	990	1,260	9.4	8.2	10.8	10,720	11,080	10,420
HANCOCK	21,750	20,470	20,230	1,870	1,960	1,550	8.6	9.6	7.7	19,880	18,510	18,680
KENNEBEC	50,520	50,360	51,110	2,760	3,110	2,800	5.5	6.2	5.5	47,760	47,250	48,310
KNOX	14,910	15,010	15,020	1,140	1,030	990	7.6	6.9	6.6	13,770	13,980	14,030
LINCOLN	13,390	13,160	13,350	700	850	600	5.2	6.5	4.5	12,690	12,310	12,750
OXFORD	22,190	21,320	20,880	1,680	1,720	1,760	7.6	8.1	8.4	20,510	19,600	19,120
PENOBSCOT	62,810	62,060	61,770	4,610	4,380	4,140	7.3	7.1	6.7	58,200	57,680	57,630
PISCATAQUIS	7,650	7,180	7,540	680	550	680	8.9	7.7	9.0	6,970	6,630	6,860
SAGadahoc	13,780	13,610	13,330	660	730	590	4.8	5.4	4.4	13,120	12,880	12,740
SOMERSET	22,480	21,460	21,060	2,120	2,010	2,060	9.4	9.4	9.8	20,360	19,450	19,000
WALDO	12,120	11,750	12,100	1,390	1,360	1,310	11.5	11.6	10.8	10,730	10,390	10,790
WASHINGTON	13,290	12,690	12,580	1,720	1,550	1,490	12.9	12.2	11.8	11,570	11,140	11,090
YORK	81,450	78,720	78,060	3,140	3,690	3,210	3.9	4.7	4.1	78,310	75,030	74,850

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data are not seasonally adjusted. All data are on a place of residence basis. Members of the armed forces are excluded.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
AS A FEDERAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

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